



## **The Memorial de la Shoah: understanding the past to enlighten the future**

Opened to the public on January 27, 2005, the Shoah Memorial\* is Europe's largest center for research, information and education on the history of the genocide of Jews during the Second World War.

Located in Paris, in the heart of the historic Marais district, this museum, documentation center and place of remembrance, covering a total surface area of almost 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, offers a journey, exceptional documentation and numerous activities to better understand this tragic period of history, pass it on to new generations and fight against the return of all forms of intolerance.

\* The term "Holocaust" is commonly used in English-speaking countries; the term "Shoah" - "catastrophe" in Hebrew - is more commonly used in France.

### **Remembering**

The Wall of Names, an engraved stone, bears the names of the 76,000 Jewish men, women and children deported from France between 1942 and 1944.

At the heart of the Memorial, the crypt is the symbolic tomb of the six million Jews who died without a proper burial. At its center lie the ashes of victims collected from the extermination camps.

A ray of hope in the dark history of the Shoah, the Wall of the Righteous, erected in the Allée des Justes adjacent to the Memorial, bears the names of the men and women who, at the risk of their lives, worked in France to save persecuted Jews

### **Explain**

In a vast 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> space, the permanent exhibition describes the fate of the Jews during the Second World War and the mechanisms that led to the extermination of nearly six million of them.

Photographs, original documents, posters, private correspondence, objects, films... bring together collective history and individual destinies.

The permanent exhibition ends with the Children's Memorial, where some 2,700 photographs recall the fate of Jewish children deported from France.

For children aged 8 to 12, a specially adapted tour is offered, with special signage and an accompanying booklet on sale in the bookshop. The permanent exhibition is not suitable for children under 8.

### **Preserving and passing on**

The Memorial also offers numerous sources of documentation, accessible to all. In the reading room, everyone can access the exceptionally rich collection of the Centre de documentation juive contemporaine - several million archive items, 115,000 photographs and 30,000 books - bearing witness to Jewish life in France and Europe under the Occupation.

In the multimedia teaching center, anyone can consult audiovisual documents - survivor testimonies, fiction, documentaries, radio and music archives...

Temporary exhibitions and numerous events in the auditorium (screenings, meetings, conferences, etc.) are offered throughout the year, as well as an awareness-raising program adapted to schools.

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Free admission. Reservations are essential for guided tours with students.

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